

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**VETERANS TASK FORCE (VTF)**  
February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Minutes

The Veterans Task Force Team of the City of Mesa met on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 11:00 am in the Community Room of the Mesa Fire Department – Station 201, 360 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Co-chair  
David Lucier, Co-chair  
Barbara Allison  
Cheryl Anderson  
Gene Barnes  
Darcy Breault  
Gene Crego  
Corey Harris  
Steve Heppy  
Joseph Panagakis  
Bob Schmidt  
Mark Tompert

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese  
Justin Smothers

1. Call to order.

Ms. Heap called meeting to order at 11:00 am.

2. Approval of minutes from the Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 VTF meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Tompert to approve the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes, the motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Hear any updates and discuss outlined goals:

a. Preferential hiring for veterans

Ms. Giese advised that the Human Resources Director for the City of Mesa is currently reviewing the recommendation for preferential hiring for veterans and how it could be implemented in Mesa.

b. Mesa Public Schools connection

Ms. Heap advised that Dino Recla and Thomas Winkle implemented their two training workshops for school counselors on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Sunset Bank building on Main Street in Mesa, AZ. The training was well attended and received.

c. Central Campus/Center

Ms. Kosisky, who was not in attendance, is taking the lead on this issue. The agenda item will be ongoing.

d. Matrix of resources and contacts

This is an ongoing agenda item as Mr. Smothers continues to expand the matrix of veteran's resources on the Mesa website.

4. Discuss new Mesa Court protocol for diverting defendants with mental health issues, disabilities and veterans.

HRAB board members informed of the presentation by Mesa Court Administrators regarding a new protocol for diverting defendants with mental health issues, veterans and homeless. The new protocol they plan to identify all of the available services pertaining to these issues and make them accessible to judges when working with defendants. This approach is more clinical as they are not separating defendants but associating the appropriate services best suited for that individual. For example, a homeless veteran may also have mental health concerns requiring multiple services. This approach is broader but felt to be more effective long term.

5. Hear update on request for funding to purchase a van to transport veterans.

Mr. Schmidt provided a request for funding to purchase a van to transport veterans. VTF members offered Mr. Schmidt suggestions where to seek such funding.

6. Discuss meeting quarterly and scheduling next meeting date.

- Proposed meeting date: Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 11:00am.

VTF members discussed having quarterly meeting with members of the board and to continue the existing monthly meetings with members of the community.

7. Scheduling future agenda items and discuss process to submit background materials prior to meeting.

VTF members agreed to hear and discuss the updates on the outlined goals.

8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator